

PAUL A. GOSAR, D.D.S.  
NINTH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

2057 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-2315

1300 SOUTH LITCHFIELD ROAD, SUITE 115-H  
GOODYEAR, ARIZONA 85338  
(623) 707-0530

WWW.GOSAR.HOUSE.GOV



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS

June 26, 2023

H.E. Szabolcs Takács, Ambassador of Hungary to the United States  
Embassy of Hungary  
1500 Rhode Island Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel: (202) 362 6730  
e-mail: [Mission.Was@mfa.gov.hu](mailto:Mission.Was@mfa.gov.hu)

Re: American Liska Jewish Community with Hungarian Roots

Dear Ambassador Takács:

I have been asked to help raise awareness of an issue that was brought to me by some of our Jewish friends here in the United States regarding access to a Jewish cemetery in rural Hungary. I bring this request in the spirit of cooperation and fully recognize the affairs of Hungary are its own, and my request is simply that: a request. It is my hope that you can assist me, and the Liska Jewish community, in contacting the correct people and offices in Hungary to address a situation where the Jewish community reports to me that it has been intimidated, harassed and blocked by local Roma residents when they try to visit and take care of the cemetery.

Their request is to meet with the appropriate officials in Hungary who can assist them with selling the public access to the cemetery to their non-profit foundation, taking it out of the public domain, so that the Jewish visitors can travel the road to the cemetery in peace and, if privately owned, take security measures such as building a fence, to protect this sacred spot.

The relevant background is this: The United States is home to the world's largest Jewish communities, outside of Israel. The majority hail from Europe, and many from Hungary. An important historical piece of their collective Jewish past is the cemeteries of their ancestors. Many American citizens visit Hungary, and many families from our Jewish communities take their children and grandchildren to Hungary, to teach them about the historical significance of these places. Hungary has such cemeteries, and the Liska Hasidic Jewish group that contacted me has one cemetery in particular to which they would like better and more secure access, particularly since they consider the site holy and sacred.

I am informed that the American Jewish community has assumed the responsibility to maintain the cemeteries of their ancestors and that they participate and pay for the upkeep of the cemeteries and the infrastructure of the surrounding areas of these sites, including cemeteries in Csenger, Kerestur, Satorlajaujhely, and Boszormeny.

The Hasidic Jewish Group of Liska traces its lineage to the town of Olaszliszka, Hungary. The first Liska Rebbe became the world-famous Rabbi of Liska, introducing Hasidism to the masses in Hungary. I am told that under his leadership the Jewish community flourished in the picturesque Tokaj region. However, with the events of World War II and the Holocaust, their lives were upended, particularly when Hungarian Jews were deported by the occupying Nazi regime. Many of the Jews of Liska died during the Holocaust, but a handful of survivors transplanted the Liska Jewish community to the United States, where it proudly carries forth the Liska name and traditions.

I am told that the American Liska community has invested significant funds to enhance the cemetery infrastructure in Olaszliszka, primarily for safety and security. In addition, they tell me they are ready to further develop the area with a visitor center. They have expressed fear and concern about the safety and security of the visitors as well as the sanctity of the cemetery proper.

I have included with this letter several maps showing the plats involving the cemetery and adjoining area. The areas in orange consist of land already owned by the Hungarian Olaszliszka Jewish Foundation. The areas marked in red are areas where the Jewish community is asking to be removed from public usage and either sold to the foundation or provide conditions that grant limited access only to the foundation and members of the Liska Hasidic group. It is their desire to build fencing and other protective measures to allow them to visit this cemetery in peace, without having to run a gauntlet of harassment.

I am very aware that this is an internal Hungarian matter, but inasmuch as it is the Liska Jewish Community in my country that protects the cemetery and visits that cemetery, and own land around the cemetery, I humbly ask that this matter be considered by the relevant authority in Hungary. The Liska community would like to meet with the appropriate officials with whom they can discuss this.

Thank you for considering this request. May God continue to bless and protect Hungary and the Liska Jewish Community.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Gosar" followed by a stylized flourish.

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress  
9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, Arizona

Cc: Pal Peter Schmitt  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
Embassy of Hungary  
Mobile: (202) 938-5477  
E-mail: [pal.schmitt@mfa.gov.hu](mailto:pal.schmitt@mfa.gov.hu)  
1500 Rhode Island Avenue, NW Washington DC, 20005



Sátoraljaújhely 3981 Kazinczy u. 41.

## E-hiteles térképmásolat

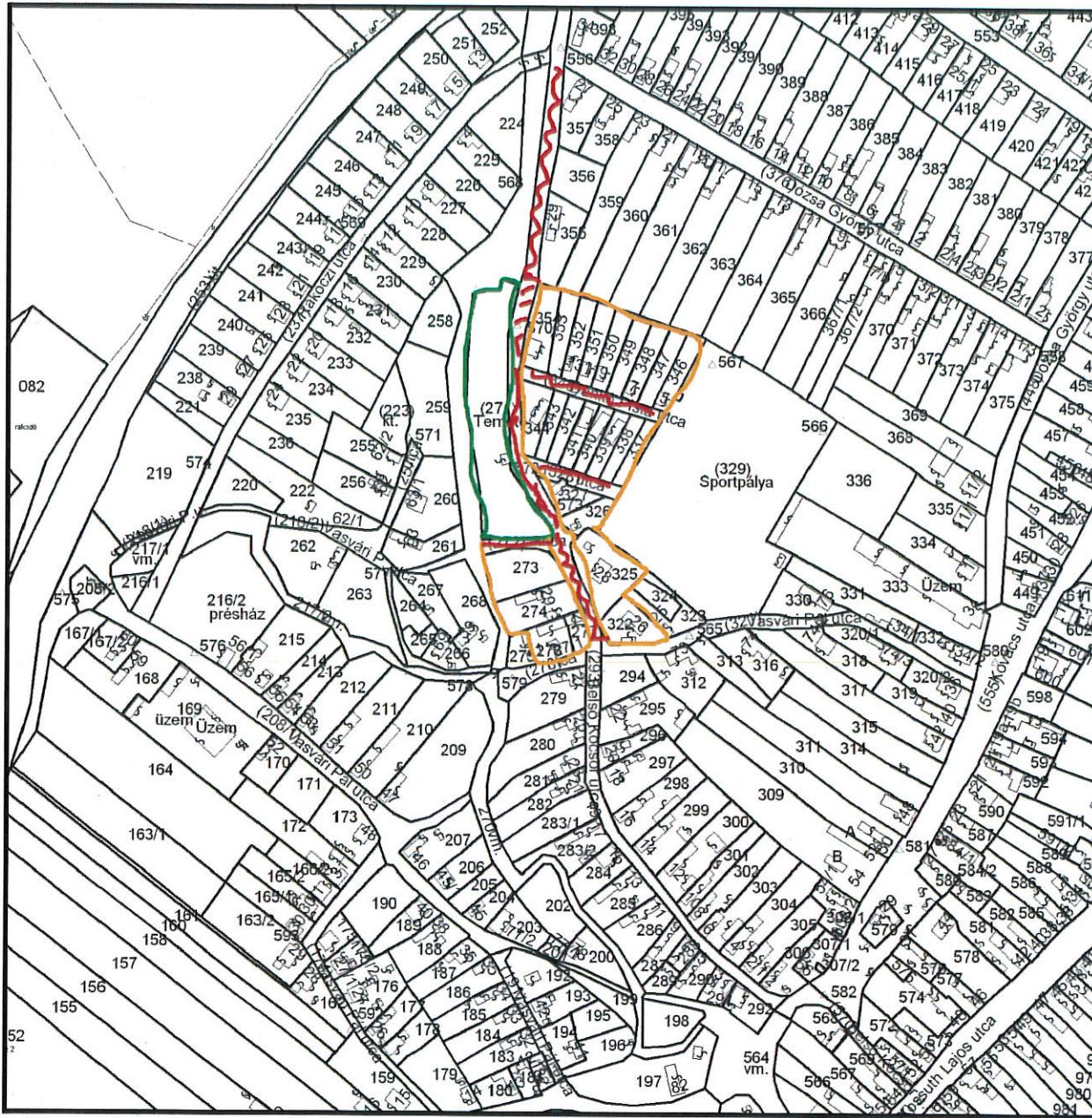
2018.04.24 08:47:14

Helyrajzi szám: OLASZLISZKA belterület 270

Megrendelés szám: 7/454/2018

Méretarány: 1 : 4000

Térrajzsám: 13094460002018



A térképmásolat a kiadást megelőző napig megegyező az ingatlan-nyilvántartási térképi adatbázis tartalmával.

BAZ M. Kormányhivatal Sátoraljaújhelyi Járási Hivatala  
Sátoraljaújhely 3981 Kazinczy u. 41.

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